

Citizens Clean Elections Commission

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COMMISSION RESPONDS TO ADVERSE MATCHING FUNDS RULING

PHOENIX, (June 9, 2010) –The Citizens Clean Elections Commission (Commission), the state agency that administers the Citizens Clean Elections Act, has taken two steps in response to the U.S. Supreme Court’s unexpected ruling that struck down matching funds.

The Commission has asked Governor Brewer to call for a special legislative session to increase funds awarded to participating candidates in order to reduce the unfair effects of the ruling. In addition, the Commission is researching whether some clarification of an earlier U.S. District Court ruling might allow the Commission to declare an emergency and provide relief to impacted candidates.

“Candidates ran using the Clean Elections system with the understanding that the current funding levels would be in place for the entire election cycle,” said Todd Lang, Executive Director for the Commission. “The legislature can remedy the situation by increasing the funding amount to the level expected by the people when they passed the Clean Elections Act, or by allowing participating candidates to drop out when funding is reduced.”

Participating candidates are awarded matching funds if their traditional opponent(s) spends more than the participating candidate receives from the Commission. In addition a participating candidate may receive matching funds based on independent expenditures made either against their campaign or for their opponent(s). The funding is capped at three times the original spending limit

About the Citizens Clean Elections Commission

The Citizens Clean Elections Act, which was passed by voters in 1998, created a new campaign financing system that provides full public funding to qualified candidates who agree to abide by Citizens Clean Elections Commission guidelines. Candidates for statewide and legislative offices are eligible to participate in the public funding program.

To qualify for funding, participating candidates gathered \$5 qualifying contributions from constituents who were registered voters. Participating candidates also adhere to strict spending and contribution limits and agree to attend required workshops and debates.

For more information visit the Citizens Clean Elections Commission website: www.azcleanelections.gov

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